BASTIEN *et al.* Appl. No. 09/400,447

## Remarks

Of the 42 claims filed in this application, claims 4, 7, 10, 12-14, 19, 20, 24, 25, 29-33 and 35-37 were sought to be amended, and claims 40-42 were sought to be canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the patent application on September 21, 1999. In this Second Preliminary Amendment, claims 5 and 39 are sought to be amended to remove the multiple dependencies. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration of all pending claims is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Michael B. Ray

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 33,997

Date: 4/14/00 1100 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20005-3934

(202) 371-2600

MBR/agj

::ODMA\GRPWISE\SKGF\_DOM.SKGF\_PO.PTO\_LIB:2042.1